

## CLAIMS

1. A power supply device comprising:

a first voltage generator (10) having a first coolant path (15) allowing a coolant  
5 for cooling the first voltage generator (10) to pass therethrough;

a second voltage generator (20) having a second coolant path (25) allowing the  
coolant for cooling the second voltage generator (20) to pass therethrough;

a first cooling system (30) supplying the coolant to a coolant intake side of said  
first coolant path;

10 a second cooling system (40) supplying the coolant to a coolant intake side of  
said second coolant path;

a coolant discharge path (80) connected to both of a coolant discharge side of  
said first coolant path and a coolant discharge side of said second coolant path;

a first temperature sensor (12) attached to said first voltage generator;

15 a second temperature sensor (14) attached to said first voltage generator on the  
coolant discharge side of said first coolant path, relative to said first temperature sensor;  
and

a control circuit (50) controlling an operation of each of said first and second  
cooling systems,

20 when said control circuit issues an operation instruction to each of said first and  
second cooling systems, said control circuit detecting failure in said first cooling system  
when a temperature difference ( $\Delta T_b$ ,  $\Delta T_{b\#}$ ) between temperature detected by said first  
temperature sensor and temperature detected by said second temperature sensor is  
larger than a reference value.

25 2. The power supply device according to claim 1, further comprising a third  
temperature sensor (22) attached to said second voltage generator, wherein

when said control circuit (50) operates said second cooling system (40) to cool  
said second voltage generator (20) based on a temperature detected by said third

temperature sensor, said control circuit (50) also operates said first cooling system (30) in an auxiliary manner to prevent the coolant discharged from said second coolant path (25) from flowing back to said first coolant path (15) through said coolant discharge path (80) even when it is determined that cooling of said first voltage generator is unnecessary based on the temperatures (Tb1, Tb2) detected by said first and second temperature sensors.

3. The power supply device according to claim 2, wherein a flow rate (Y1) of the coolant from said first cooling system (30) when said first cooling system (30) is operated in said auxiliary manner is set to be lower than a flow rate (Y2) of the coolant when said first cooling system is operated to cool said first voltage generator (10).

4. The power supply device according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein said first voltage generator (10) is a secondary battery, and said second voltage generator (20) is a power converter having a semiconductor power switching element embedded therein.

5. A power supply device comprising:  
a first voltage generator (10) having a first coolant path (15) allowing a coolant for cooling the first voltage generator (10) to pass therethrough;  
a second voltage generator (20) having a second coolant path (25) allowing the coolant for cooling the second voltage generator (20) to pass therethrough;  
a first cooling system (30) for supplying the coolant to a coolant intake side of said first coolant path;  
a second cooling system (40) for supplying the coolant to a coolant intake side of said second coolant path;  
a coolant discharge path (80) connected to both of a coolant discharge side of said first coolant path and a coolant discharge side of said second coolant path; and

a control circuit (50) controlling an operation of each of said first and second cooling systems,

when said control circuit operates one cooling system of said first and second cooling systems, said control circuit also operating the other cooling system of said first and second cooling systems even when cooling of the voltage generator corresponding to said other cooling system is unnecessary.

6. The power supply device according to claim 5, wherein said control circuit (50) controls the operation of each of said first and second cooling systems (30, 40), based on an output of each of temperature sensors (12, 14, 22) provided at said first and second voltage generators (10, 20).

7. The power supply device according to claim 5 or 6, wherein, when said control circuit (50) operates said one cooling system, and when said control circuit (50) also operates said other cooling system even when cooling of the voltage generator corresponding to said other cooling system is unnecessary, said control circuit (50) sets a flow rate of the coolant from said one cooling system to be relatively higher than a flow rate of the coolant from said other cooling system.

8. The power supply device according to claim 5, wherein said control circuit (50) controls the operation of said first cooling system (30) such that said first voltage generator (10) is maintained to be at not more than a first reference temperature ( $T_{br}$ ), and controls the operation of said second cooling system (40) such that said second voltage generator (20) is maintained to be at not more than a second reference temperature ( $T_{dr}$ ),

said first reference temperature is lower than said second reference temperature, and

when said control circuit operates said second cooling system to cool said

second voltage generator, said control circuit also operates said first cooling system even when cooling of said first voltage generator is unnecessary.

5 9. The power supply device according to claim 8, wherein when said control circuit (50) operates said second cooling system (40), and when said control circuit (50) also operates said first cooling system (30) even when cooling of said first voltage generator (10) is unnecessary, said control circuit (50) sets a flow rate of the coolant from said second cooling system is set to be relatively higher than a flow rate of the coolant from said first cooling system.

10 10. The power supply device according to claim 5, further comprising:  
a first duct (31) provided between a discharge side of said first cooling system (30) and said first coolant path (15); and  
a second duct (32) branching off from said first duct, wherein  
15 an intake side and a discharge side of said second cooling system (40) are coupled to said second duct and said second coolant path, respectively.

11. The power supply device according to any one of claims 5, 6, and 8-10, wherein

20 said control circuit (50) controls the operation of each of said first and second cooling systems (30, 40) such that said first and second voltage generators (10, 20) are maintained to be at not more than a control target temperature ( $T_{br}$ ) and a control target temperature ( $T_{dr}$ ), respectively,

25 said first voltage generator is a secondary battery,  
said second voltage generator is a power converter having a semiconductor power switching element embedded therein, and

said control target temperature ( $T_{dr}$ ) of said power converter is higher than said control target temperature ( $T_{br}$ ) of said secondary battery.